

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TOKYO 07087 131029Z  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /063 W  
-----131031Z 097482 /10

P 130922Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7055  
INFO AMCONSUL NAHA PRIORITY  
CINCPAC HONOLULU PRIORITY  
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA PRIORITY  
OAC CAMP BUTLER OKINAWA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 7087

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MARR, JA  
SUBJECT: OKINAWA LAND LAW

SUMMARY. BECAUSE OF OPPOSITION STALLING TACTICS, GOJ  
INCREASINGLY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT CHANCES FOR ENACTING  
NEW OKINAWA LAND LAW BEFORE PRESENT LAW EXPIRES MAY 14.  
MOFA AND JDA HAVE ASKED FOR CLOSE COORDINATION BETWEEN  
US FORCES AND JAPANESE AUTHORITIES ON OKINAWA SHOULD  
NEW LAW NOT BE ENACTED BEFORE MAY 15, IN ORDER TO AVOID  
INSOFAR AS POSSIBLE CONFRONTATION WITH DEMONSTRATORS.  
END SUMMARY.

1. FONOFF AND DEFENSE FACILITIES ADMINISTRATION  
AGENCY (DFAA) BRIEFED US FORCES AND EMBASSY MAY 13  
ON LAND LAW SITUATION. SINCE LOWER HOUSE PASSAGE OF NEW  
LAND LAW MAY 10, OPPOSITION LED BY SOCIALIST PARTY HAS  
UPSET GOVERNMENT TIMETABLE FOR OBTAINING UPPER HOUSE  
PASSAGE. SOCIALIST TACTICS PREVENTED OPENING OF UPPER  
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 07087 131029Z

HOUSE CABINET AFFAIRS COMMITTEE UNTIL 3:00AM MAY 13  
WHEN DEFENSE AGENCY DIRECTOR GENERAL MIHARA WAS FINALLY  
ABLE TO EXPLAIN COMPROMISE BILL TO SLEEPY LEGISLATORS.  
COMMITTEE IMMEDIATELY BOGGED DOWN, HOWEVER, AND DFAA  
EXPLAINED THAT EFFORTS WERE STILL UNDERWAY TO RESUME  
COMMITTEE WORK AND OBTAIN ITS CLEARANCE WOMETIME  
DIRING NIGHT OF MAY 13 IN TIME TO PERMIT UPPER HOUSE

PLENARY VOTE ON MAY 14. IN VIEW OF SUCCESS OF STALLING TACTICS SO FAR, HOWEVER, GOJ OFFICIALS WERE INCREASINGLY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR ENACTING LEGISLATION BEFORE PRESENT LAW EXPIRED MIDNIGHT MAY 14.

2. IF DEADLINE PASSES, GOJ WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS AND HOPES TO OBTAIN PASSAGE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THEREAFTER. ALTHOUGH SOCIALIST PARTY OBJECTIVES UNKNOWN, DFAA BELIEVES IT IS NOT TRYING TO BLOCK LEGISLATION PERMANENTLY. POSSIBLE AIM MAY BE TO CREATE PERIOD OF LEGAL VACUUM, DURING WHICH CHALLENGES CAN BE FILED IN COURT AGAINST US FORCES USE OF LAND.

3. IF LEGAL VACUUM DEVELOPS, GOJ EXPECTS PERIOD OF CONFUSION AND POSSIBLE TENSION ON OKINAWA. FOR EXAMPLE, POLICE KNOW OF PLANS BY BOTH RADICAL AND MODERATE GROUPS FOR RALLIES ON MAY 14 AND 15. ATTEMPTS BY DISAFFECTED LANDOWNERS TO VISIT THEIR ON-BASE PROPERTY ALSO POSSIBLE.

4. DFAA ASKED THAT US FORCES TAKE FOLLOWING MEASURES IN EVENT NEW LEGISLATION NOT ENACTED ON TIME:

(1) REFER REQUESTS BY LANDOWNERS TO ENTER BASES TO NAHA DFAB;

(2) INCREASE SECURITY MEASURES, AVOIDING TROUBLE TO ABSOLUTE EXTENT POSSIBLE; AND

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PAGE 03 TOKYO 07087 131029Z

(3) MAINTAIN CLOSEST POSSIBLE CONTACT WITH DFAB. RE SECOND POINT, DFAA SAID THAT DEFENSE MINISTER MIHARA HAD ASKED ESPECIALLY THAT US FORCES AVOID ANY POSSIBLE ACTION WHICH MIGHT CAUSE SERIOUS INCIDENT OR INJURY TO LANDOWNERS OR OTHERS. US SIDE ASSURED ITS COOPERATION.

6. FONOFF REP NOTED THAT SOCIALIST DIETMAN UEHARA AND GROUP OF WRITERS HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED ENTRY TO WHITE BEACH AND KADENA AFB ON MAY 16, AND ASKED THAT EFFORTS BE TAKEN TO ENSURE APPROPRIATE RECEPTION, IN VIEW OF POSSIBILITY THAT THESE VISITORS MIGHT BE CONFUSED WITH OTHERS SEEKING ENTRY. AGAIN, HE URGED CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN DFAB AND US FORCES TO ENSURE SMOOTH HANDLING.  
SHOESMITH

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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